(c) whether the Kasliwal Committee has submitted any report to Government so far; and

(d) if so, the main reommendations and the decisions of Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV): (a) to (d) A High Level Coordination Committee was set up in January, 1994, under the Chairmanship of justice Shri N.M. Kasliwal, Retired Judge of the Supreme Court, to look into and advise in the matter of expeditious disposal of pending cases of compensation claims of the Bhopal Gas Victims. The Members of the Committee were Secretaries to the Government of India in the Departments of Law and Justice, Chemicals and Petrochemicals, Expenditure, Chief Secretary, Madhya Pradesh and the Commissioner for the Welfare of Bhopal Gas Victims. The Committee could not finalise its report. However, the Chairman has submitted his own report.

Allotment of Government Accommodation on Exchange Basis

*335. SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that government accommodation of various types has been allotted on "exchange basis";

(b) if so, the criteria for making such allotments;

(c) the number of Government accommodations of different types allotted to employees on "exchange basis' during 1992-93, 1993-94 and till date;

(d) the number of Government offices having their own pool and the number of various types of government accommodations allotted to their employees on "exchange basis'; and

(e) the number of applications under considerations for allotment of accommodation on 'exchange basis' as on date and by when such requests would be considered?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL): (a) Yes, sir.

(b) When an officer who has been allotted accommodation from the General Pool is transferred to an office, the staff of which is not eligible for general pool accommodation and which has its separate pool of accommodation he shall be permitted to continue to retain the general pool residence provided that the ineligible office to which the officiai is transferred has agreed to extend similar concession to its staff transferred to an office eligible for general pool accommodation.

(c) and (d) As per details at Annexure. [*See* Appendix 174, Annexure No. 59]

(e) Two requests for inter-pool exchange of quarters are pending at present.

India's Share in Global Rice Trade

*336. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is the second largest producer and consumer of rice in the World but its share in the global rice trade is only 4 per cent;

(b) whether it is also a fact that rice is India's prime cereal and occupies nearly one-fourth of the total cropped acreage but its yield is 26.7 quintal per acre as compared to the world average of 35.5 quintal per acre;

(c) if so, the reasons for its poor percentage global rice trade and low yield; and

(d) the steps being considered to improve its position in the global trade and yield?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The area under rice in the country, according to the latest statistics, is of the order of 23.3 per cent of the gross cropped area. According to FAU Production Year Book 1993, yield level of paddy in India during 1993 was 26.94 quintals per hectare as against world average of 35.75 quintals per hectare.

(c) Export of Indian rice in global market has been low on account of various factors, viz. consumer preference, quality, price competitiveness, availability etc. The reasons for low yield of rice include; Less area coverage

under HYV of rice and adoption of short and medium duration varieties, low level adoption of improved production technology, low fertiliser use, dependence of large rice area on monsoon and adoption of crop rotation with two crops in a year in most irrigated area as compared to a single crop of rice in several other countries.

(d) In order to increase export of rice, various measures, such as, removal of price and quantity restrictions on the export of both basmati and non-basamati rice, assistance in organising overseas campaigns and participation in trade fairs/exhibitions, provision of financial assistance to exporters in improving quality, packing, brand promotion of products, conducting market surveys, etc. have been taken. With a view to raise productivity and production of rice, Government is implementing a Centrally sponsored Scheme, namely, the Integrated Cereal Development Programme (ICDP-rice).

Threat of Extinction to River Dolphins

*337. DR. PAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of AGRICUTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether river Dolphins face a threat of extinction;

(b) if so, the steps proposed to prevent fishermen from catching river Dolphins by amending the Indian Fisheries Act;

(c) wheher Dolphins sanctuaries would be opened on the banks of slected rivers for preserving the aquatic bio-diversity; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICUTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) and (b) River Dolphins (Gangetic dolphin) are mammals already protected under Schedule 1 of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, administered by the Ministry of Environment & Forest. The capture and killing of river dolphins (Gangetic dolphin) is prohibited under this Act. There is no immediate threat of extinction of river dolphins. There is no proposal for amendment of the Indian Fisheries Act.

(c) and (d) There is no such proposal under the consideration of Government.

महिला समृद्धि योजना

*338. **श्री इकबाल सिंह:** क्या मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) 30 जून, 1995 की स्थिति के अनुसार महिला समृद्धि योजना के अंतर्गत देश की ग्रामीण महिलाओं द्वारा विभिन्न डाकघरों में खोले गये खातों का राज्य-वार तथा क्षेणी-वार ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ख) उपर्युक्त योजना का मुख्य उद्देश्य क्या है;

(ग) क्या सरकार महिला समृद्धि योजना के मूल उद्देश्यों को प्राप्त करने में सफल रही है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो ग्रामीण महिलाओं को और अधिक समर्द्ध तथा व्यावसायिक दृष्टि से आत्मनिर्भर बनाने के लिये सरकार द्वारा क्या नीति निर्धारित की गई है और इसे किस प्रकार कार्यान्वित किया जा रहा है?

मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री (श्री माधव राव सिंधिया): (क) 30 जून, 1995 की स्थिति के अनुसार ग्रामीण डाकघरों में कुल 95.324 लाख खाते खोले जा चुके हैं। राज्यवार विवरण संलग्न (नीचे देखिये)

जम्मू एवं कश्मीर, हिमाचल प्रदेश, बिहार, गुजरात, हरियाणा, मध्य प्रदेश, महाराष्ट्र, मणिपुर, मेघालय, नागालैंड, उड़ीसा, पंजाब, राजस्थान, सिक्किम, तमिलनाडु, त्रिपुरा, उत्तर प्रदेश, पश्चिम बंगाल, अंडमान एवं निकोबार द्वीप समूह, चंडीगढ़, दादरा एवं नगर हवेली, दमन एवं दीव, गोवा, लक्षद्वीप, पांडिचेरी, अरुणाचल प्रदेश, असम, केरल, मेघालय, मिजोरम, नागालैंड, उड़ीसा, सिक्किम, त्रिपुरा, आंध्र प्रदेश, कर्नाटक, तमिलनाडु, पश्चिम बंगाल, अंडमान एवं निकोबार द्वीप समूह, गोवा, लक्षद्वीप, पांडिचेरी

(ग) जी, हाँ।

(घ) महिला समृदि योजना के उद्देश्य ग्रामीण महिलाओं में बचत को प्रोत्साहित करना है। ग्रामीण महिलाओं का सरकारी कार्यकर्त्ताओं के साथ सम्पर्क बढ़ाने के लिये सरकार ने राष्ट्रीय महिला कोष और इन्दिरा महिला योजना के माध्यम से बहु-आयामी दृष्टिकोण अपनाया है, ताकि उन्हें आसानी से ऋण प्रदान किया जा सके और महिलाओं के लिये चलाये जा रहे सभी क्षेत्रीय कार्यक्रमों और सेवाओं के संकेन्द्रण सुनिश्चित किया जा सके।